

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-9, 11-14 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Joustra et al. Applicants respectfully disagree. As pointed out in the previous response, Joustra et al disclose a process for preparation of a catalyst that typically uses a carrier gas to carry titanium tetrachloride onto the solid silicate and/or organic silicate carrier. This is illustrated by the cited reference at page 3, line 39, and in the Example at page 6, lines 54 and 55.

Claim 1 of the present application, on the other hand, is directed to a process for the preparation of an epoxidation catalyst in which the silicate-containing carrier is impregnated with a gas stream "consisting of" titanium halide. As set forth in MPEP 2111.03, the transitional phrase "consisting of" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. Thus, Claim 1, and those claims depending therefrom, are limited to processes in which the gas stream only contains a titanium halide. Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is neither taught nor suggested by the Joustra reference.

Claim 41 is directed to a process in which the gas stream comprises at least 80% by weight of titanium halide. Applicants are not contending that titanium tetrachloride is not a titanium halide. Rather, Applicants submit that the Joustra reference does not disclose nor suggest a process in which the gas stream comprises at least 80% by weight of a titanium halide. The only example set forth in Joustra utilized nitrogen as a carrier gas for the titanium tetrachloride.


In the Office Action, Claims 4, 9-10, 21-23, and 25-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joustra in view of Han et al. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that these claims are not obvious in view of the combination of Joustra and Han.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration by the Examiner is requested. Should the Examiner find any impediment to the allowance of the claims which could be corrected by a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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